



Facts-on-Hand Transportation

FAPE-35

What do I need to know about transportation?

Students who need special help with transportation have the right to get it. Transportation and assistance is provided as a related service to a child whose disability creates a need for special help:

- getting to and from school;
- traveling between schools;
- getting around inside of school buildings;
- getting around the school grounds.

Special equipment may be required such as separate or adapted buses, lifts and ramps.

Jenny uses a power wheelchair to get around her high school. She has learning disabilities and an IEP. She needs ramps to get around safely inside the school and on the school grounds. This need is included in her IEP. Her IEP also includes her need for a bus with a wheelchair lift. The school provides this bus which picks up all the children in her neighborhood. Jenny rides with her neighborhood peers.

Who decides if my child needs transportation services?

You and the rest of your child's IEP team decide whether your child needs transportation services. The school has to arrange for transportation if the IEP team decides that your child's disability prevents him or her from:

- using the same transportation as nondisabled children, or
- getting to and from school the same way as nondisabled children.

Monty is a seventh grader with disabilities. Monty's disability makes it hard for him to pay attention. He has a poor sense of direction and poor problem solving abilities. At his IEP meeting, the team discussed his transportation needs. The IEP team decided that it would not be safe for Monty to travel to and from a bus stop by himself. They included his need for door-to-door transportation in his IEP.

My child's IEP includes transportation services as a related service. Will I have to pay for these services?

No. The school pays the whole cost. It is against the law for the school to charge you.

Jonah is a preschooler whose parents both work. He attends day care in his neighborhood. Jonah was screened by the public school and found to need speech therapy. According to his IEP, he gets speech therapy twice a week at his neighborhood school. The school provides a bus to take him between his day care and the school where he gets his therapy. There is no charge for this service.

Don't all students with disabilities have the right to transportation?

No. Only students with disabilities who need it and have transportation services included in the IEP get transportation services.



If transportation services are not in your child's IEP, your child will be treated like all other children. In other words,

- if the school transports students without disabilities, your child will travel with them;
- if the school does not provide transportation to nondisabled students, your child will not receive transportation.

I have taken my daughter out of public school and enrolled her in private school. Our public school system has decided to provide her with speech therapy in accordance with our state's guidelines. Do they have to provide transportation?

Since, in your case, the public school has decided to provide speech therapy to your daughter, they are also required to provide transportation to the public school site where they are offering these services. The public school will transport her to and from the location of any related service they provide. This information will be included on her services plan.

Depending on when the public school services are provided, your daughter may be transported from home or the private school to the public school and back if needed.

IDEA never requires the public school system to transport your daughter between your home and the private school. Check with your local public school system about rules where you live. Some state and local regulations go beyond those required by federal law.

Don't most children with disabilities need special transportation?

Most children with disabilities receive the same transportation as their nondisabled classmates. Sometimes just adding special equipment or helpers to regular school buses is all it takes.

Carol has ADHD. Sometimes she acts without thinking. She rides to school on the bus with her neighbors. Carol's IEP includes a positive behavior plan to help her learn to follow bus rules. The bus driver and the bus aide received training to carry out Carol's behavior plan. They are responsible for putting the behavior plan into action as part of the transportation related service.

My son goes to private school. Does he still have the right to transportation?

If his IEP team made the private school placement and it was determined that he needed transportation it would be included in his IEP and he would be provided those services. However, if you put your son in private school, the rules are different. Talk to your local special education department for the answer.

For more information

To see the exact language in the federal regulations, the parts of the IDEA that talk about transportation can be found in: IDEA regulations Section 300.24 (b)(15), 300.456, and Appendix A Question 33.

For a copy of the IDEA regulations online, go to www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA/getregs.html. You can order a printed copy of the regulations from ED Pubs. Order online at www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html, or by phone 1-877-4-ED-PUBS, 1-877-576-7734 TTY/TDD, 1-301-470-1244 FAX.

Other Resources

The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY) 800-695-0285, www.nichcy.org.

The Family and Advocates Partnership for Education 888-248-0822, www.fape.org. (FAPE)

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